

International perspective on Open Access

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Open Access Seminar
Stellenbosch University
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Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens

Library and Information Service



UNIVERSITEIT
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Agenda



- Open Access Week
- Definitions
- Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination
- Opening access to South Africa's research content
- Global developments
- What's next!



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Open Access Week



- In its 4th year
- A global event
- Aim to promote Open Access as a new norm in scholarship and research.

Open Access Week

Definitions

Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination

Opening Access to South Africa's research content

Global developments

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“An opportunity for the academic and research community to continue to learn about the potential benefits of Open Access, to share what they’ve learned with colleagues, and to help inspire wider participation in helping to make Open Access a new norm in scholarship and research.”

Jennefer McLennan, 2010

<http://www.openaccessweek.org>



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“Open Access has direct and widespread implications for academic, medicine, science, industry and for society as a whole”

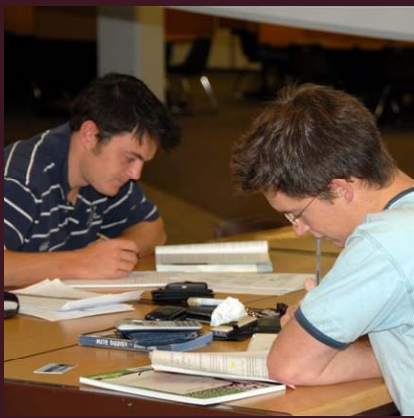
1. Maximize research investments, increase the exposure and use of published research across available literature, and enhance the overall advancement of scholarship
2. Research funding agencies, academic institutions, researchers, and scientists, teachers, students, librarians, and members of the public are supporting a move towards Open Access in increasing numbers every year
3. Open Access Week is a key opportunity for all members of the community to take action to keep this momentum moving forward

Jennefer McLennan, 2010



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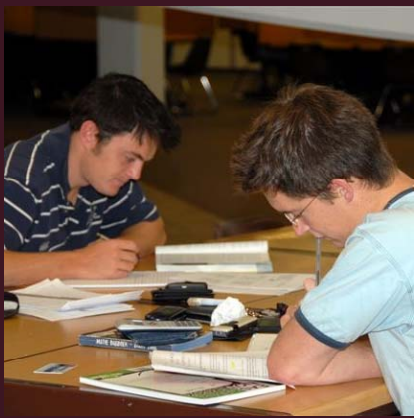
“Open Access is, simply the idea that research articles should be freely, immediately and permanently available online to anyone, rather than locked away in subscription journals as many currently are.”

Zoe Corbyn, THES, 12 November 2009.



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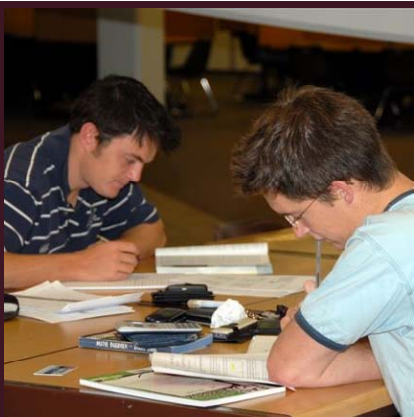
“ ... the free, immediate, online access to the results of scholarly research, and the right to use and re-use those results as you need...”

Jennefer McLennan, 2010

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- Open Access the alternative to Closed Access or Subscription Access.
- Traditionally, journals have been sold on subscription to libraries
- Age of print-on-paper was the only model
- Only researchers in institutions that could afford to pay subscription charges able to read articles
- Wealthy universities could only afford a proportion of the world's research literature
- Poorer countries the proportion is tiny or even non-existent
- At the beginning of this millennium, more than half the research-based institutions in the poorest countries had **no current journal subscriptions and over 20% had an average of two subscriptions**

Source: Open Access Scholarly Information Source Book (OASIS)



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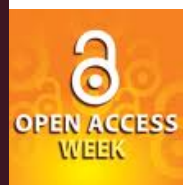
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Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination



Open Access benefits researchers, institutions, nations and society as a whole

- For researchers, it brings increased visibility, usage and impact for their work
- Institutions enjoy the same benefits in aggregated form
- Growing evidence to show that countries also benefit because Open Access increase the impact of the research in which they invest public money and therefore there is better return on investment
- Society as a whole benefits because research is more efficient and more effective, delivering better and faster outcomes for all

Source: Open Access Scholarly Information Source Book (OASIS)

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Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination



A number of studies carried out on the effect of Open Access, show the increased citation impact that Open Access can bring:

- Steve Lawrence's finding in 2001 – free online access tripled citations of computer science papers
- Michael Kurtz's study on astronomy literature demonstrated that Open Access can double the readership of articles
- Brody and Harnad – increased in citations in several disciplines
- Kristin Antelman's – findings in philosophy, political science, electrical & electronic engineering and mathematics

Source: Open Access Scholarly Information Source Book (OASIS)

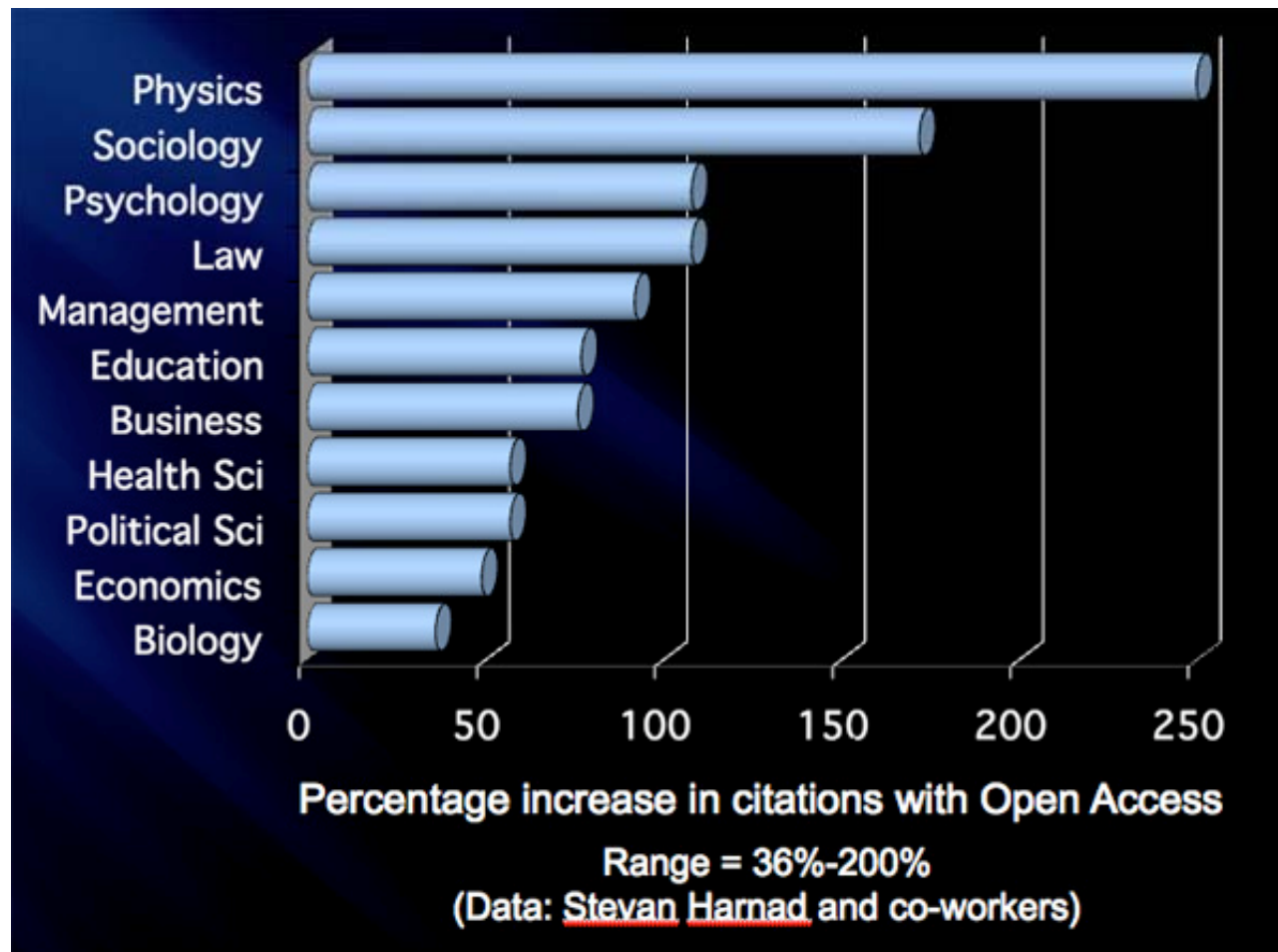


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Results from Stevan Harnard's research groups in Southampton and Montreal





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Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination



Research

1. Faster access, speeding up the research and discovery process, increasing ROI in R&D
2. Improved access leading to better informed research, reducing duplicative research
3. Wider access providing enhanced opportunities for multi-disciplinary research, inter-institutional and inter-sectoral collaborations
4. Greater access leading to improved education outcomes, improvement in capabilities of future researchers and research users

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Industry and Government

1. Potential for wider access accelerate and widen opportunities for adoption of commercialisation of research findings , thereby increasing returns on public investment in R&D
2. Give those who currently have limited access (doctors/nurses, teachers/students, small firms in consulting, engineering, design) with a positive impact on quality of services, and possibly productivity
3. Potential of the emergence of new industries based on open access content

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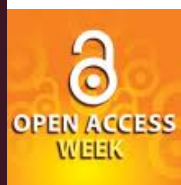
Impact/Benefits of Open Access for research dissemination



The wider community

- Potential impact of open access to the 'informed citizen' and 'informed consumer' – with implications for better use of health and education services, better consumption choices, etc.

Source: The Economic Impact of Enhanced Access to Research Findings, John Houghton and Peter Sheehan, CSES Working paper No.23, July 2006



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Opening Access to South Africa's research content



- A significant number of SA institutions have developed institutional repositories to share their research output, especially theses and dissertations
- A number of researchers and academics are publishing in open access journals
- Institutions also to start budgeting to support publishing in open access journals
- Open Access movement at national level gaining momentum
- A recent survey conducted demonstrates growing institutional repositories and Open Access publishing
- South Africa a comparatively strong repository infrastructure as compared with the rest of the continent.

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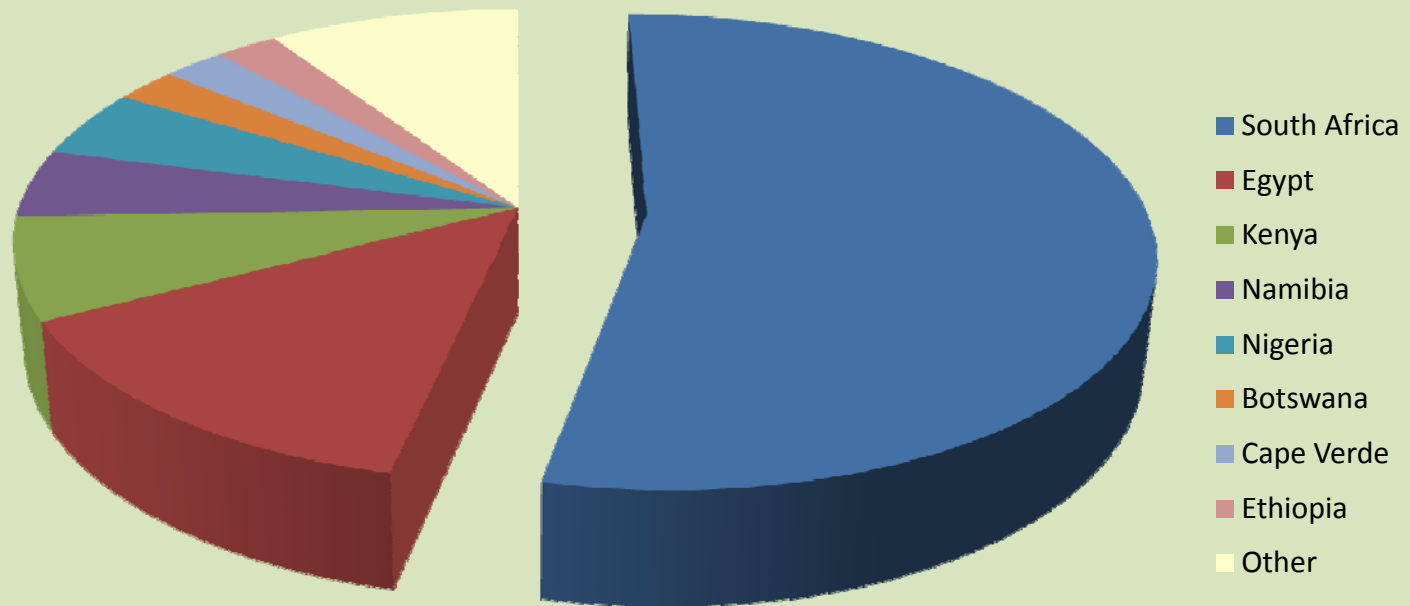
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Distribution of repositories in Africa





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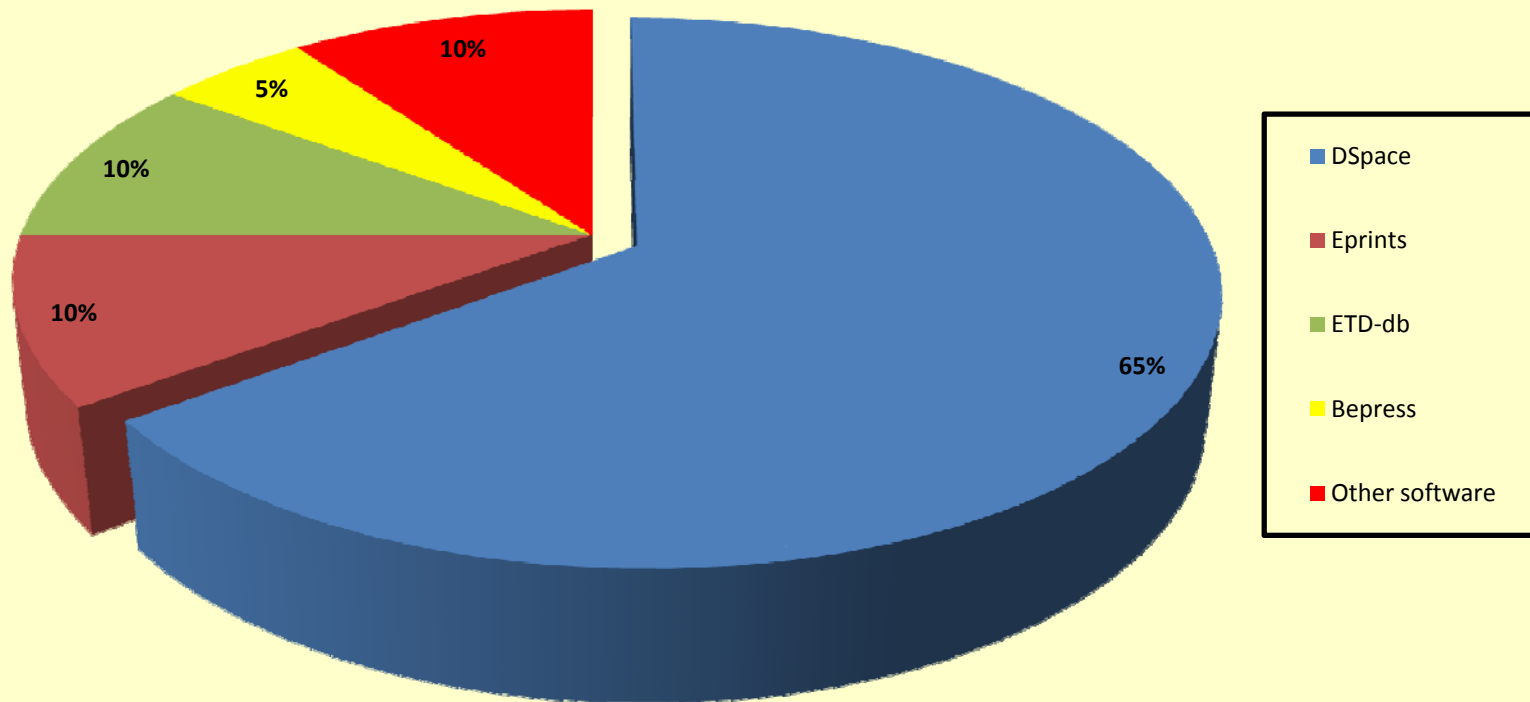
- Data from OpenDOAR show that open source software is the choice of software for repositories in South Africa
- DSpace is the preferred open source software for institutional repositories
- In keeping with the principle of openly sharing content within the country, continent and the rest of the world
- Concomitant with the growth is the exponential ingestion of material into the repositories – from zero records at the turn of the century to more than 11 000 in 2009

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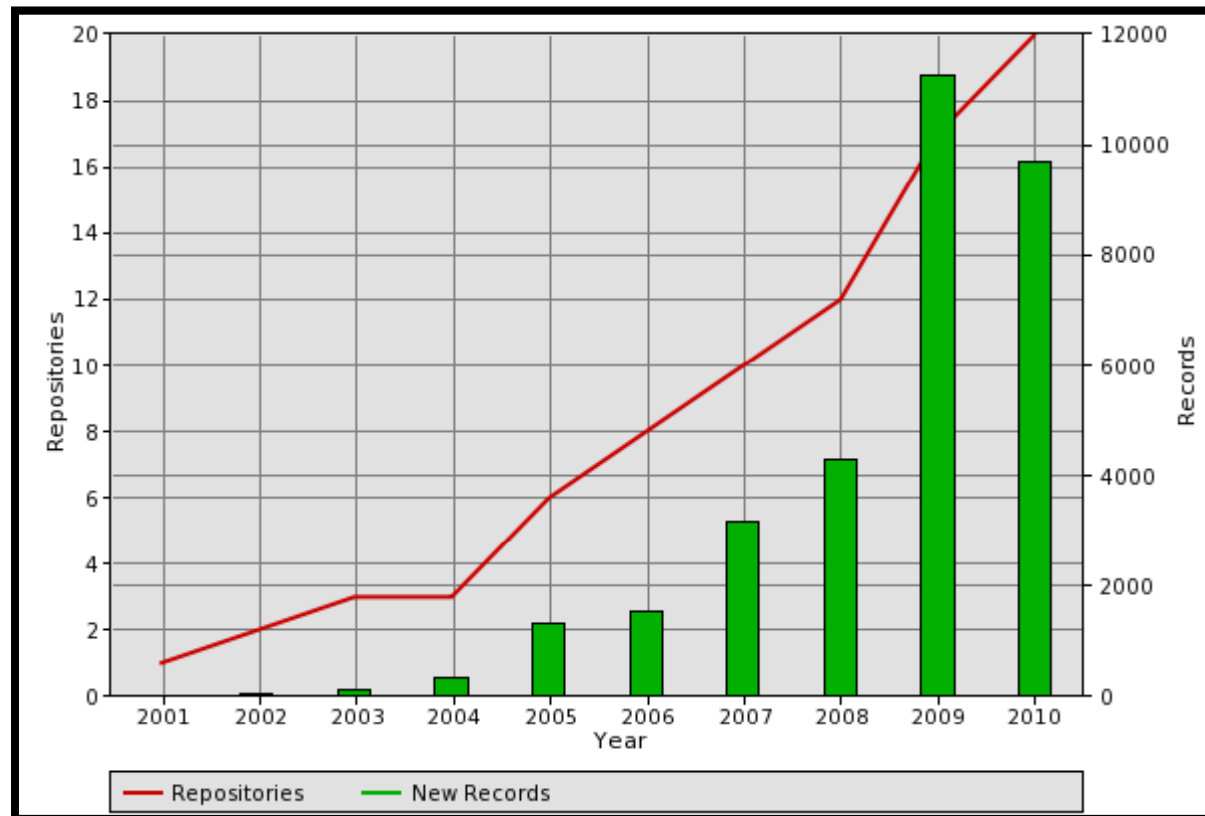
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Software used for repositories



Growth pattern of repositories and records





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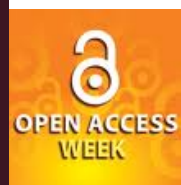
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Opening Access to South Africa's research content



- Repositories fundamental to sharing research output among institutions in SA, on the continent and with the international information seekers

- Respondents:

“there is an immediate take-up of material placed in the repository. Within the first year there were more than 30,000 downloads despite only 800 items being available. These downloads came from 52 different countries, and there is therefore a definite impact”.

“we have had testimonies from people all over the world and within the [Institution] that they have received funding due to the exposure of their work via the IR, we have had our researchers partnering with international people to do research because of the exposure of their research hosted in our IR.”

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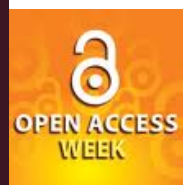
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Statements on Open Access

- **Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities**

<http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

- **OATS - Open Access Team for Scotland**

[Scottish Institutions Supporting Open Access](#) and their [declaration \[PDF\]](#)

(issued: 11 Oct 2004)

- **Budapest Open Access Initiative**

<http://www.soros.org/openaccess/read.shtml>

- **Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing**(status: 20 Jun 2003)

<http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/fos/bethesda.htm>

- **Wellcome Trust Position Statement on Open Access**(issued: 01 Oct 2003)

<http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/About-us/Policy/Policy-and-position-statements/WTD002766.htm>

- **OECD Declaration on Access to Research Data from Public Funding**

(issued: 30 Jan 2004)

<http://www.oecd.org/>

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- **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>

- **Registry of Open Access Repositories**

<http://roar.eprints.org/?action=browse>

- **SPARC Open Access Forum and Newsletter**

<http://www.arl.org/sparc/soa/index.html>

- **Directory of Open Access Journals (Lund University Libraries)**

<http://www.doaj.org>

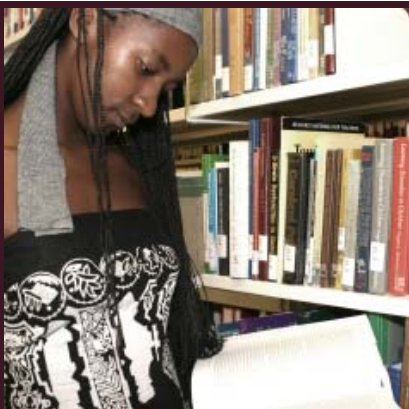
- **Institutional Self-Archiving Policy Commitment -
Registry of Open Access Repository Material
Archiving Policies**

<http://www.eprints.org/openaccess/policysignup/>



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Open Access Publishers

- AJOL
- Bioline
- BioMedCentral
- PLoS
- Hindawi
- OASPA

Institutional mandates

- MIT
- Harvard
- Imperial College
- Australia
- University of Pretoria



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What's next!



- Compelling arguments/data
- Considering the potential impact/benefits – obligation to share and opening access to research information
- Challenge award systems – should be adjusted to be inclusive of OA initiatives
- Institutions to adopt formal mandates
- Continue to advocate for open access globally
- IFLA

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THANK YOU!

Elsevier Library Connect Seminar,
31 August 2010
Cape Town



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